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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly



Bulletin

OF
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MAY 31, 1924

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Rabies.

RADIO TALK No. 7.

The cry of "stop thief" will always cause people on crowded city streets to at least stop, look and listen but the cry of "mad dog" will drive people indoors in the proverbial twinkling of an eye. No traffic officer can possibly clear the streets as quickly or as effectively as a mad dog. The fear that the average person holds for an animal suffering from rabies, or hydrophobia, as it is popularly known, is well grounded for such an animal is capable of spreading, through its bite, one of the most terrible of all known diseases. A so-called mad dog is not suffering from emotional insanity, but is afflicted with an acute infectious disease that plays havoc with the nervous system. All domestic animals, and some wild animals, may be afflicted with rabies, but the disease is found chiefly in dogs and coyotes. It is spread, mostly, by stray dogs but it shows no class distinction, attacking prize pups and grand champions as relentlessly as yellow curs and mongrels.

The term "dog days" is most misleading, for the disease may be even more prevalent during the winter than during the summer months and the so-called "dog days" of August. Dogs, to be sure, suffer great physical discomfort during hot weather because their skins contain no sweat glands and all their perspiring is done, pantingly, through their mouths. Rabies has been more prevalent in California recently than ever before in the history of the state and last year, eleven human beings died tragic deaths from this truly horrible disease.

The diagnosis of rabies in animals may be difficult, requiring the skilled services of a veterinarian, but the general symptoms in the order of their occurrence are:

- (1) Sudden change in disposition.
- (2) Unusual nervousness or irritability.
- (3) Tendency to leave home.
- (4) Change in tone of voice.
- (5) Refusal to eat.
- (6) Tendency to snap or bite without cause.
- (7) Tendency to paralysis of the legs or lower jaw.

An animal showing any of these symptoms should be placed in confinement immediately and the proper authorities be notified without delay.

A bite from a dog suspected of having rabies should be cauterized at once with concentrated, fuming nitric acid. Never should carbolic acid, iodine or other agents be used for this purpose. Fuming, concentrated nitric acid only should be used in cauterizing dog bites.

If it has been determined that the biting animal is rabid the Pasteur preventive treatment should be started without delay. No human being who has ever shown any of the symptoms of rabies has ever recovered. There is no treatment for the disease itself after the first symptoms have appeared. The Pasteur treatment is only for the prevention of the development of the disease. Persons bitten by rabid dogs should never delay in securing this treatment for of all diseases that may afflict mankind there is none more truly terrible than rabies.

**Public Health Summer Schools, 1924,
Conducted With the Cooperation
of the United States Public Health
Service.**

Columbia University-----New York City
July 7 to August 15

John J. Coss, A.M., Director of the
Summer Session
Haven Emerson, M.D., in charge of Public
Health Courses

University of California-----Berkeley
June 23 to August 2

John P. Buwalda, Ph.D., Dean of the
Summer Sessions
John N. Force, M.D., In charge of
Public Health Courses

University of Iowa-----Iowa City
June 9 to July 18

C. H. Weller, Ph.D., Director of the
Summer Session
Don M. Griswold, M.D., Director of the
Public Health Summer School

University of Michigan-----Ann Arbor
June 23 to August 2*

E. H. Kraus, Ph.D., Dean of the Summer
Session
John Sundwall, M.D., Ph.D., In Charge
of Public Health Courses

* Certain courses at the University of Michi-
gan will continue two additional weeks.

Requests for announcements should be
addressed to the Deans of the Summer
Sessions.

Advanced Degrees.

During the next decade, hundreds and thousands of men and women will enter various kinds of public health work. A few will come from schools of public health with the M.D., D.P.H., or other special public health degree. A much larger number, probably, will enter public health work directly from private medical practice, from private nursing and from other occupations allied to public health work, without the advantages of special training for which an advanced public health degree stands.

The public health summer school has been established for such persons, also for physicians and others who have already entered the field of public health—sometimes rather suddenly—without having had the opportunity of special academic training. Those of either group may select at a conveniently located summer school two or more courses which will prove to have immediate value in public health work or in any form of preventive medicine, irrespective of the academic credit to be gained. Many,

perhaps, will wish to consult at once the dean of the graduate school of the university at which they decide to do their work, so that a program of courses may be arranged which will lead to the C.P.H., A.M., M.S. Ph.D., Sc.D., D.P.H. or other advanced degree.

Most of the courses given by the University of California and the University of Michigan may be counted towards an advanced degree. Nearly all the courses offered by Columbia University and the University of Iowa are regularly scheduled for credit; those not specifically so indicated may be taken for credit by arrangement with the appropriate department or the dean of the college concerned.

**Training for Practicing Physicians in Pre-
ventive Medicine and Public Health.**

An increasing proportion of the 145,000 physicians and surgeons of the United States are engaging in various forms of preventive medicine and public health work. Pediatricians are beginning systematically to provide for the health of babies for a specified period of time after birth. An increasing number of private practitioners are giving periodic health examinations. Approximately 12,000 to 20,000 physicians are engaged on a part-time or full-time basis in special clinics and general dispensaries. Others are becoming employed by tuberculosis associations and various private health agencies. Still others are joining the staffs of county, municipal, state and federal health organizations.

For most of these various types of work, the practicing physician finds himself in need of additional training. Some have sufficient initiative and resourcefulness to obtain this training in the course of their new work. A considerable majority, however, may welcome a chance to obtain up-to-date instruction in a more systematic way. They will find in the public health summer schools of 1924 a unique opportunity for such training. Innumerable combinations of courses are possible. Every physician who has already entered or is planning to enter some phase of preventive medicine or of public health work in connection with his private practice or who intends to become associated with some health agency will be able, at any one of the public health summer schools, to find the type of training he needs to enable him to develop greater efficiency in his new work.



**IT IS IN THE POWER OF MAN TO
MAKE ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO
DISAPPEAR FROM THE WORLD—PAS-
TEUR.**

Prenatal Letters Being Distributed.

Dr. Ellen S. Stadtmuller, Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the California State Board of Health, has prepared a set of printed prenatal letters, a sample of which has been sent to each of 5500 registered California physicians. These letters have been favorably received by medical practitioners, many of whom have sent lists of patients to whom the letters are to be mailed, month to month, by the Bureau of Child Hygiene. Others have asked that a supply of the letters be sent to them for their own distribution to patients. Either method of distribution is agreeable to the bureau.

This set of nine prenatal letters is written in clear, easily understood language and is designed for mailing one each month during pregnancy and the final letter after childbirth. It is hoped that these letters may be a factor in reducing maternal and infant mortality. While they are designed, primarily, for giving plain common-sense advice to those expectant mothers who do not know how to take the necessary care of themselves during the prenatal period, they are by no means to be considered as useful only for the ignorant and uneducated. Any expectant mother will find in these letters a record of definite instructions that may be considered scientifically sound. They are, to be sure, supplementary to the medical advice that must be given to each individual patient to fit her particular case and are not useful to expectant mothers who may not have placed themselves under competent medical care during the prenatal period.



Announce Examination For Technicians.

The Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission announces an examination for technician (pathological laboratory) which is open to residents of California. Application forms may be obtained from Dr. I. C. Hall, Department of Bacteriology, University of California, Berkeley, or of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission, 1007 Hall of Records, Los Angeles, or the San Francisco Civil Service Commission. The examination will be held in San Francisco and in Los Angeles on June 12, 1924. Applications should be filed immediately.

Scarlet Fever To Be Brought Under Control.

Dr. Abraham Zingher of New York, said recently at the meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York: "I am convinced that the Dick test will be the means to stamp out scarlet fever. In the laboratories in New York, we have been able to produce an antitoxin, 10 c.c. of which will neutralize fifty thousand times the skin dose. This antitoxin will keep better than diphtheria antitoxin, which is a great advantage in commercial preparations. As yet we have not found a method for standardizing the antitoxin through animals. The Dick test is positive in the early stages of scarlet fever, and negative in the later stages because of formation of antibodies. The same toxin is used for the skin test as is used in active immunization. Within a year we shall be able to rewrite the history of the epidemiology of scarlet fever."



Monterey Immunizes Against Diphtheria.

The Monterey County Health Department under the direction of Dr. R. C. Main, county health officer, has immunized 600 children against diphtheria. Most of these children reside in the northern part of Monterey County. None of those living south of Gonzales have, as yet, received toxin antitoxin from the county health department.



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

235 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 58, San Francisco 51, Long Beach 15, Pasadena 5, Los Angeles County 10, Sacramento 10, Berkeley 6, Oakland 27, Contra Costa County 2, Lodi 1, Whittier 1, San Bernardino County 1, Fresno County 4, Sacramento County 1, Ceres 1, Sanger 2, Butte County 1, San Leandro 2, San Rafael 1, Larkspur 1, Amador County 1, Woodland 1, Daly City 2, Sonoma County 2, San Jose 1, Santa Clara 1, Pomona 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Modesto 3, Richmond 2, Santa Clara 3, Hawthorne 2, San Joaquin County 1, Merced 1, Stockton 2, Watsonville 1, San Fernando 1, Riverside 1, Petaluma 2, Ukiah 1, Alameda 4, San Bernardino 1.

Scarlet Fever.

150 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 33, San Francisco 23, Los Angeles County 11, Orange County 5, Woodland 5, Kern County 7, Fresno 5, San Jose 2, Glendale 3, El Monte 1, Fresno County 1, Bakersfield 1, Sanger 4, Berkeley 1, Burbank 2, Long Beach 1, Ontario 1, Colusa 3, Colusa

* From reports received on May 26th and 27th for week ending May 24th.

County 1, Livermore 1, Taft 1, Visalia 1, Lodi 2, Stockton 1, Whittier 2, Huntington Park 1, Alameda County 1, Napa 2, Sonoma County 2, Corona 1, Santa Clara County 4, Chula Vista 3, Pomona 3, Riverside 1, Burlingame 1, Santa Ana 2, Fullerton 3, Mountain View 4, Oakland 4.

Measles.

856 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 141, Pasadena 108, Los Angeles County 107, San Francisco 26, Long Beach 32, Whittier 45, Brawley 8, South Gate 7, El Segundo 8, Hawthorne 8, Orange County 20, Huntington Park 12, Alhambra 12, Compton 12, Tracy 12, Stockton 7, Manteca 9, Red Bluff 15, Santa Monica 8, Corona 7, San Bernardino County 6, Lemoore 5, Culver City 17, Huntington Beach 21, Fresno 15, Berkeley 21, Sacramento 13, Riverside 7, Lassen County 11, Watts 15, Santa Barbara 9, South Pasadena 8, Fullerton 8, Oakland 21, Colton 1, Kern County 3, San Jose 3, Claremont 1, Santa Clara County 4, Martinez 1, Redondo 1, Hermosa 1, San Gabriel 3, Mill Valley 3, Clovis 1, Beverly Hills 1, Sonora 2, Sanger 1, Glendora 1, Pomona 1, Monrovia 3, Glendale 4, Fresno County 2, Tulare County 3, Ventura 1, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Merced County 2, Santa Ana 1, Madera 2, Selma 3, Chico 1, Monterey County 1, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 2, Benicia 1, Tehama County 1, San Luis Obispo County 3, Rialto 4, Mountain View 1, Beaumont 2, Alameda 1, Eureka 1, Walnut Creek 1, Albany 1, San Bernardino 3.

Smallpox.

204 cases of smallpox have been reported, as

follows: Los Angeles 89, Los Angeles County 40, Watts 13, Long Beach 8, San Bernardino 5, Ontario 13, Glendale 2, Fresno County 3, Burbank 1, Tulare County 1, Anaheim 2, Huntington Beach 4, Selma 1, Fresno 1, Colton 1, Ventura County 1, Orange County 2, South Gate 1, San Gabriel 1, San Jose 1, Redondo 1, Hermosa Beach 3, Kern County 2, Lassen County 1, Huntington Park 4, Santa Monica 2, Rialto 1.

Typhoid Fever.

9 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Imperial 1, Madera County 1, Fresno County 1, Alhambra 2, Fresno 1, Sacramento 1, Los Angeles 1, Oakland 1.

Whooping Cough.

48 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 8, Los Angeles County 8, Berkeley 5, Oakland 1, Orange 1, Alameda County 5, Santa Ana 2, Fresno 4, Sierra Madre 3, Paso Robles 1, San Francisco 1, Alhambra 1, Long Beach 4, Orange County 2, Santa Barbara County 2.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

2 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Santa Clara 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

San Francisco reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Lassen County reported one case of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

DISEASES.	1924				1923			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 24 received by May 27	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 26 received by May 29
	May 3	May 10	May 17		May 5	May 12	May 19	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis.....	5	1	1	2	4	2	1	0
Chickenpox.....	410	367	353	260	272	295	343	228
Diphtheria.....	194	207	244	235	167	154	167	142
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	2
Epidemic Jaundice.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea.....	176	97	67	76	106	94	113	69
Influenza.....	21	26	19	14	461	64	18	32
Leprosy.....	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1
Malaria.....	2	4	2	3	5	4	3	3
Measles.....	1110	1337	86	856	1268	1418	1403	960
Mumps.....	53	56	83	96	24	36	24	34
Pneumonia.....	161	49	52	42	59	67	60	43
Poliomyelitis.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Rabies (Human).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever.....	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	232	204	221	150	173	202	171	146
Smallpox.....	360	278	276	204	43	29	42	26
Syphilis.....	194	131	91	75	77	180	147	74
Tuberculosis.....	184	174	221	206	136	190	143	145
Typhoid Fever.....	16	13	24	9	18	20	12	6
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	34	62	55	48	257	299	224	135
Totals.....	3157	3011	2557	2278	3077	3056	2885	2059

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE

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